

CARSON VALLEY, UTAH—ANNEXATION TO STATE OF CALIFORNIA—AND EASTERN BOUNDARY OF CALIFORNIA.

JANUARY 20, 1857.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. MORRILL, from the Committee on Territories, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Territories, to whom were referred the petitions of the citizens of Carson Valley, Utah Territory, praying for the annexation of that portion of Utah Territory to the State of California, together with the bill to change the eastern boundary of the State of California, have had the same under consideration, and report as follows, viz:*

That it appears the petitioners are situated eight hundred miles from Salt Lake city; that their business and commercial relations are entirely with the State of California; and that they are not Mormons, and do not wish to be. They represent that the territorial laws are not administered with justice, but that those who are not Mormons, and not "zealously affected" towards that faith, are subjected to gross persecutions, by which they are often impoverished, and that the will and fanaticism of the leading elders bear heavily upon the "Gentile minority" in the Territory of Utah. The petition of the ladies represents that while there are but three or four Mormon families in the Carson Valley, yet Elder Orson Hyde is made the probate judge of their county, and that he brings among them "one of his spiritual wives," whom they regard as no better than the "scarlet lady," expecting, when the judge introduces her as his wife, that they will associate with her; but that they look with disgust upon the prospect of raising up their daughters among such associates, and they ardently desire that their homes in their pleasant valley shall not be "defiled" by the "horrible fanaticism" and "deception" of Mormonism.

To what extent the evils complained of by the petitioners of Carson Valley exist, the committee have little accurate information; but it is notorious that similar grievances have been published as prevalent in other portions of Utah; and if they exist in Carson Valley, which is scarcely to be doubted, it may fairly be presumed that their force and offensiveness is not diminished where the sway of the Mormon elders is supported by an overwhelming majority, and where the ecclesias

tical leaders have the unlimited control over the political, civil, and religious action of their devotees.

To grant the prayer of the petitioners, or, in other words, to pass the bill "to change the eastern boundary of the State of California, would only extirpate a small portion of the evil complained of. It appears to your committee that some measure of wider scope is necessary to effect a radical cure of the moral and political pestilence which makes Utah the scandal of the American people. Such a measure is now on the calendar—the bill for "the prevention and punishment of polygamy"—and there is no legislation more earnestly demanded.

Furthermore, the State of California is already too large, and should not, in the opinion of the committee, be made still more unwieldy by a further extension of its boundaries. We therefore report the bill to the House with the recommendation *that it do not pass*.